

Enck, Judith

From: Seggos, B B (DEC) <b.seggos@dec.ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 5:09 PM
To: Enck, Judith
Cc: Zucker, Howard A (HEALTH)
Subject: RE: PFOA concerns in Petersburg

Judith,

Thank you for your email, but the state has been providing all necessary assistance to local leaders and residents in the Town of Petersburg since becoming aware of PFOA contamination in February.

As you know, the state immediately secured a commitment for free bottled water for all residents at the nearest grocery store (Tops), the Town Hall, as well as a commitment from the company to deliver water to elderly and disabled residents so those issues have been addressed.

The state also secured a commitment from the company to install a carbon filtration system on the Town's system that will remove PFOA.

We are in constant contact with Taconic, the County and the Town and will continue to provide all necessary assistance, including responding to and addressing resident concerns raised in the normal course of business and at last night's Town meeting.

Basil

From: Enck, Judith [mailto:Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 9:35 AM
To: Seggos, B B (DEC) <b.seggos@dec.ny.gov>; Zucker, Howard A (HEALTH) <howard.zucker@health.ny.gov>
Subject: PFOA concerns in Petersburg

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Commissioners: see the articles below. There obviously are many issues involved but the one that needs immediate attention is making it easier for residents to access alternative bottled water as the current system has major problems. The over extended volunteer Town Supervisor should not be expected to manage water distribution. Two suggestions:

1. Identify where most residents do their grocery shopping and establish a water pick up process in those stores similar to what is in place at Topp's in Hoosick Falls. This way people don't have to make an extra stop and can easily procure water at any time the store is open. Taconic can voluntarily agree to do this or DEC or DOH could issue an Order. If people have private wells that are not contaminated they would not be eligible for the water, so a system could be established to address that. I imagine that people on the waiting list to get their private wells tested should be eligible for bottled water until their test results come back indicating there is not a problem, if that is the case.

2. I am concerned about elderly and disabled residents who cannot easily carry water from stores. In Hoosick Falls a group of volunteers, called Water Angels, did home delivery but that is a lot to expect of volunteers especially in rural Petersburg. Home delivery of water should be arranged for the home bound. That could also be done voluntarily by Taconic or included in the same Order suggested above.

I am available to discuss at any time.

Judith

212 637 5000

WRGB: Angry residents question PFOA response in Petersburg

By Emily DeFeciani Monday, May 16th 2016

PETERSBURGH--Local communities still dealing with a water contamination crisis are demanding answers from their leaders.

In Petersburg there's an immediate problem on a lot of minds.

How could town officials let the community run out of bottled water?

"People are very mad and they have a right to be," said resident Kathy Lingener.

"We need help in Petersburg, we do. We need our state to recognize us and to help us," said Emily Marpe.

Residents of the small town made a big cry at Monday's town board meeting, particularly frustrated with the response from the supervisor.

But the issue goes beyond local leaders, to the state.

Petersburgh has been dealing with water contamination for months now, but residents say they aren't getting the same help with filtration systems, water testing, and blood testing as a nearby town with similar problems.

"Why is it not a superfund site like they did immediately in Hoosick Falls to get state funding and state help which they're not getting here?" said DJ Lingener.

"Why are Petersburg residents not being treated the same as Hoosick Falls?" said a resident named Emily.

Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin responded, saying "That's a great question, it seems to be two different approaches clearly. They seem to have commanded the attention, which is fret we want them to get attention but that same level of attention needs to be paid to Petersburg."

Petersburgh town board meeting gets heated over PFOA

WNYT Staff

Updated: 05/16/2016 11:37 PM

Created: 05/16/2016 6:27 PM

PETERSBURGH - The max occupancy is 33 at the Petersburg town hall board room, but more than 50 packed in for the board's meeting on Monday. As he held his eyes to the table, it seemed like the walls were closing in on town supervisor Peter Schapook.

"I gotta stop right there," Schapook said, interrupting a member of crowd during the public comment period.

"This town board has been working very diligently at the speed we can work. None of us are professionals.

None of us get paid. In fact, I haven't taken a salary yet as supervisor. To say that we're not doing all we can do, is totally unfair."

In an often out of control public comment period, people urged the town board to do more in forcing the state and Taconic to fix their PFOA problem. People asked for home bottled water deliveries paid for by Taconic, an independent review of negotiations between the state and Taconic, and generally, a faster fix.

"The town is really getting lost, because nobody knows what they're doing," said Emily Marpe, a town resident.

New test results by Rensselaer County on Monday show nine more homes are over the so-called safe limit set by the EPA.

That brings the total to 47 of 173 private well tests that are over the 100 parts per trillion limit. Rensselaer County says over a dozen filtration systems have been installed so far. 72 are over the 20 parts per trillion level, including Edward Perrotti-Sousis in his Potter Hill Road home.

"Anybody over 100 parts per trillion is getting a filtration system. That's the negotiation. I said, where does that leave me? Well, I'm kind of out of luck here," said Perrotti-Sousis.

Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin was listening in at the meeting. He acknowledges the position the town board is in.

"Understand, that the folks sitting at that table are not the enemy. They're doing the best they can," said McLaughlin, R-Melrose.

McLaughlin says the state and Taconic are the ones who need to start moving faster.

"You heard that tonight from the town board, who is rightly frustrated that they're not getting information from the DEC, or the DOH, or the Cuomo administration."

About the town running out of bottled water on Saturday. The town supervisor apologized and said he just didn't order enough. He said it won't happen again. The next shipment is available on Wednesday.

TWC News: Petersburg Runs Out of Bottled Water; Residents Look for Answers

By Tanja Rekhi

Updated Monday, May 16, 2016 at 11:15 PM EDT

When Edward Perrotti Sousis moved to Potter Hill Road in Petersburg this past winter, he thought he had found his dream home.

But within just weeks, the place he and his wife envisioned raising their three-year-old son quickly turned into a nightmare.

"I bought this house while the state and the company knew about this, and they didn't disclose it," Edward said. "I made an uninformed decision when I purchased this home."

Like so many people in the small rural town, Edward is now dealing with water contaminated with PFOA, the unregulated man-made chemical believed to be coming from Taconic Plastics. Edward paid to have his well tested after hearing some residents had levels 20 times above the federal acceptable limit.

"People shouldn't be like, 'oh it's only 28 ppt,' " Edward said. "It's not only 28 ppt, it's in my water and it shouldn't be."

Since his water tested below 100 parts per trillion, Taconic likely won't pay for a water filter. Now, with no potential buyers, Edward joined dozens of people crowded in at town hall to ask officials: What now?

"You kind of feel like you're getting shafted," he said. "You're on your own here, so I can go in a corner and curl up about it or I can try to do something."

The county has collected more than 200 water samples and will soon gather ground samples, but residents fear possible adverse health impacts, like cancer and thyroid disease, seen in some lab tests with animals.

"I mean, you heard about folks not even getting their blood tested here in Petersburg," Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin said. "That's just outrageous, and it's corruption not taking care of your people."

And while officials like McLaughlin have repeatedly called for hearings at the capital, some residents are taking matters in their own hands, consulting lawyers.

"If you're a local government and you don't go to those responsible and tell them what you want, you're never going to get anything," Healthy Hoosick attorney David Engel said.

"It's going to come down to the community uniting and then going down to the state and saying 'this isn't acceptable,' because no levels should be acceptable," Edward said.

Times Union

More PFOA found in Petersburg, county reports

Monday, May 16, 2016

TROY — More perfluorooctanoic acid was detected in Petersburg after an additional 40 private wells were sampled, Rensselaer County officials said Monday.

PFOA is a chemical used to manufacture non-stick surfaces and in other processes. Considered to be carcinogenic, it was previously found in public and private water systems in the towns of Hoosick and Petersburg and the village of Hoosick Falls as well as in parts of neighboring Vermont.

The contamination is said to have emanated from the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics plant in Hoosick Falls and the Taconic facility in Petersburg. A state Superfund site was declared in Hoosick Falls.

Samples taken March 28 and 30 as well as April 4 and 11 showed:

- 8 samples below 20 parts per trillion
- 4 sample between 21 ppt and federal Environmental Protection Agency guidance level of 100 ppt
- 6 samples between 101 ppt and 1,000 ppt
- 3 samples over 1,001 ppt
- 19 samples were non-detect (less than .67 ppt)

Pace Analytical performed the tests through Bender Labs.

PREVIOUSLY: DEC probed Taconic plastics plant in 1997

A breakdown of the results of 173 samples taken at private homes in Petersburg showed:

- 36 samples below 20 ppt
- 25 samples between 21 ppt
- 32 samples between 101 ppt and 1,000 ppt
- 15 samples over 1,001
- 65 samples were non-detect

The 173 water samples were taken at 144 homes. Some already had water treatment systems installed, and a test was taken before and after the treatment system was installed to assess the impact.

Results on 73 samples are pending with the lab.

Non-detectable levels of PFOA were found in two wells after retesting those previously found to have the contaminant. Results are pending for two more wells.

The county, along with the state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation continue the testing program and will release the results as they become available.

For information, contact the Rensselaer County Health Department at (518) 270-265

Folks in Petersburg have run out of bottled water following PFOA contamination

By Carmen Chau May 15, 2016, 5:54 pm

PETERSBURGH, NY (NEWS10) – Community members in Petersburg are voicing their frustrations after finding out the water bottles have run out at the Town Hall.

Several people have told News10ABC it's been nothing but an inconvenience, especially felling like they're left in the dark with no answers.

News10ABC talked to the Town Supervisor, who didn't want to be on camera, and he admitted that he thought he ordered enough water but he was wrong.

"Water shouldn't be running out," said Emily Marpe who lives in Petersburg.

It was Saturday at 11a.m. when water ran out at the Town Hall. People were then directed to go to Tops in Hoosick Falls, which many said is a drive that's out of their way.

"We shouldn't have to drive. For me, it's 1.8 miles just to drive to the Town Hall back and forth, said Marpe.

In order to pick up water, people must have tickets that can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, which is only open at certain hours.

"This town is getting more and more frustrated," said Marpe.

Water was being distributed five hours a week at the Town Hall. People have been allowed to get one gallon per day.

But instead, people in the small town of Petersburg find themselves filing their trunks over 20 miles away.

"They are pretty frustrated because some people have been getting water filters and all that in Hoosick Falls and nobody else has been getting them and it's just very stressful and it's irritating," said Renee Wagner, who lives in Cherry Plain.

"There should just be an overabundance. It should be there," said Marpe.

Emily Marpe said she bought a well for a reason but it's no longer in use since tests showed it had PFOA levels of 2,100 parts per trillion.

The Town Supervisor told News10ABC actions are being taken. The DEC will be visiting on May 23 to do groundwater work and a design for the filter is already in place.

But the Petersburg community said that's not good enough.

"I need to see that this filter is going to work over a long period of time. You can't just force me to start giving my kids this water," said Marpe.

The meeting will take place at the Town Hall Monday at 7:30 p.m. and News10ABC will be there to cover it.

The Town Supervisor also told News10ABC he'll be ordering more water Monday which will arrive Wednesday so people can continue to come to the Town Hall in Petersburg to get their water.

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